



Shirley Dieterich Lusk

May 24, 1925 - April 29, 2017

Shirley Dieterich was born in El Paso, Texas, on May 24, 1925 to Arthur F. Dieterich, Sr. and Louise Caillet. Shirley passed away on April 29, 2017, at the age of 91 years. Her family moved to Dallas, Texas, in 1928 and established Hermosa Farms Dairy at the corner of Midway Rd and Forest Lane. She attended Walnut Hill Elementary School and was valedictorian of the 1942 graduating class of Vickery-Hillcrest High School. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, in 1946 with a BS degree in Chemistry.

After working several years for the Agricultural Extension Service lab in College Station and the lab at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, she married Dr. Clu Flu Lusk at the family's dairy farm in Grayson County, Texas, on June 17, 1950.

After a year each in Shreveport, LA, Pineville, LA and Weimar, TX, the family settled in Gainesville, TX in 1953. The 50's through 80's were devoted to raising her family and supporting the children's Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and band activities. Shirley was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Gainesville, and was a government meeting observer for the local League of Women Voters.

The great-great niece of botanist Julien Reverchon and the niece of Louisiana iris advocate Marie Caillet, Shirley has followed their footsteps working for the identification and preservation of Texas native plants. In the 90's she embarked on a self-study of Botany, was a founding member of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) and contributed to the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). Among her many projects was the plant list she composed for Cooke and Montague Counties, collection of plant species from these counties for the BRIT Herbarium, and plant identification and location expertise for farmers/ranchers and researchers including contributing to the book North Central Texas Wildflowers. In October 2012 Shirley received the NPSOT Charles Leonard Weddle Memorial Award for lifetime achievement in the field of Texas native plants. She received this award for volunteering, identifying, collecting and teaching about the native plants of the north Texas region. She was a Master Naturalist and a member of the Trinity Forks Chapter of NPSOT.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents and her former husband, Dr. Lusk. She is

survived by her sister, Nancy Kurrus (Fred) and her brother, A. F. "Buddy" Dieterich, Jr. (Nancy). She is also survived by her five children: Fred Lusk (Barbara), Alan Lusk (Terry), Jane Sears (Dwight), John Lusk (Katherine), and Claire Morris (Mike). Surviving grandchildren are Jennifer Mir, David Lusk, Patrick Lusk, Catherine Lusk, Kevin Sears, Jason Sears, Gus Mask, Elena Lusk, Kristen Morris and Elissa Morris. Great grandchildren are Tanya Mir, Ahmed Mir, Arthur Sears and Lily Ernst-Mask.

Shirley moved to Denton in 2000 and was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church there. A memorial service will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 N Bell Ave, Denton, TX 76209 on Friday, May 19, 2017 at 1:00PM, the Rev. Craig Hunter officiating. A reception at the church will follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Native Plant Society of Texas at PO Box 3017, Fredericksburg, TX 78624-1929, or Thomsen Foundation at 4528 County Rd 398, Decatur, TX 76234. Condolences may be offered at <http://www.dentonfuneralhome.net>.

Comments



“ John & family ,

We are so sorry that we couldn't make it to your mother's service. We wanted you to know that we are thinking of you and offering prayers of sympathy. Your mother was such a kind, gracious person who always made us feel so welcome. She had such a way with words. We enjoyed listening to her talk and visiting with her. She did a fine job of raising her children as you all have many of her qualities. Take care. We would love to hear from you if you are ever in Gainesville.

Donna & Randy Sikes

Randy & Donna Sikes - May 23, 2017 at 03:05 PM



“ Betty and I treasured the times Shirley visited with us in Forestburg. She was a good friend, always willing to share her expertise and love of wildflowers. I will miss her greatly.

Alan Miller - May 20, 2017 at 12:20 PM



“ Shirley was a wonderful person and dear friend. She will be greatly missed and long remembered. She was an inspiration to all that loved nature and especially our wildflowers.

Marilyn Blanton

Marilyn Blanton - May 09, 2017 at 08:53 AM



“ Shirley, you were a dear friend and supporter of me personally, the SMU herbarium, BRIT, Sida/JBRIT, the Illustrated Texas Floras project, and of course a real champion for Texas Native Plants. I remember the Wildflower Days celebration at Texas Woman’s University in Denton in April 1981. I was there with our mutual friend, Dr. Wm. F. Mahler. Since then I’m forever grateful and fortunate to have had your inspiration, friendship, and support over the years. You gave so much and expected nothing in return. Thank you for all you’ve done to support Sida, JBRIT, SMU, BRIT, the Herbarium and library, and of course for promoting and conserving the Texas flora. You have been a dear friend and supporter. How can I ever forget that you attended my poisonous plant lecture a dozen times or so over the years? Thank you for being in inspiration!--Barney the Botanist

Barney Lipscomb - May 08, 2017 at 11:20 AM



“ My Aunt Shirley was one of the nicest people I have ever known. There was such a presence about her that was obvious to all who met and knew her. She was a blessing to everyone she came in contact with and will be sorely missed by family and friends. My belief is she is in heaven marveling at all the wild flowers she has never seen!

Tom Dieterich - May 07, 2017 at 06:04 PM



“ Shirley was a wonderful mentor; so kind and generous with her time teaching me (and many others) the prairie flora when I was a young, inexperienced naturalist. I will miss her greatly. Sending my heartfelt condolences to her family.

My best, Suzanne Tuttle

Suzanne Tuttle - May 07, 2017 at 04:21 PM



“ Shirley gave us excellent advice on the Butterfly Garden at Hagerman NWR and was always very supportive of the project. She was so knowledgeable, generous with her time and talents. Sue Malnory

Sue Malnory - May 07, 2017 at 10:09 AM



“ Shirley, you will always be dear in my heart. I miss you. Thank you for the years of friendship. Looking up to you for many years for knowledge of our native plants grew to a long friendship. Love you! Kathy Saucier

Kathy Saucier - May 06, 2017 at 01:01 PM



“ Shirley was always one of my favorite people. Every time I would see her in the past, she would always have something nice to say and usually laughing or smiling about something. She will be missed. Please let her family know that we are thinking of them and Shirley at this time. GOD bless you all.

Chip Claxton - May 10, 2017 at 11:52 AM